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GROWERS
of
EVERGREEN
TREES

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INFORMATION FOR GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES

VARIETIES USED: Balsam Fir, Norway Spruce, Douglas Fir, White Spruce. The variety depends largely on the varieties in best demand in the cities nearest the plantation. Balsam Fir is usually first choice for a Christmas tree, but Norway Spruce is being more generally planted as it costs less, is easier to grow, grows faster, and therefore gives a larger and quicker return on the investment. In some localities pines of various kinds are in demand but do not usually bring the price that spruce and fir command.

AGE: The age of tree to use depends largely on the condition of the land to be planted. If an old field, not cultivated, use only four-year 2-2 stock (2 years in the seed beds and 2 years in transplant beds). In the case of land that has been tilled, three-year 2-1 stock (2 years in seed beds and 1 year in transplant beds) may be used. In some very rare instances where careful attention may be given after planting, two-year 2-0 seedlings may be used. Under no circumstances use trees that have been more than two years in either seed or transplant beds without being transplanted. Such trees usually have been so crowded that the roots are under-developed and the tops are so tall and spindling that they rarely grow into well shaped trees.

SPACING: We recommend spacing three feet by three feet. This is in anticipation of cutting out every other row when the trees are 3 to 4 feet tall, and every other tree from the remaining rows when a height of 4 to 5 feet has been attained. This leaves the balance of the trees to reach a height of 7 to 10 feet. As fast as trees are cut from a plantation as described above they should be replaced by small ones. In this way you will have, after the first 3 or 4 years of waiting, an annual crop to sell. Four-year Norway Spruce should attain a height of 3 to 4 feet in about 4 years after planting, and a height of 7 to 8 feet 7 years after planting. The other varieties mentioned above do not grow quite as fast as the Norway Spruce. The rate of growth is determined by the soil conditions. Good rich soil with the proper amount of moisture will grow good trees nearly twice as quick as poor dry soil.

NUMBER OF TREES TO THE ACRE: In round figures, 3 ft. by 3 ft. spacing requires 4800 trees per acre. In the plan of cutting already described you would have to sell about 2400 3 to 4 ft. trees, 1200 4 to 5 ft. trees, and 1000 7 feet and larger. The largest ones of course bring the most money but it costs very little to have the others growing on the same piece of land.

COST AND METHOD OF PLANTING: On areas that have been cultivated furrows are sometimes plowed and the trees planted in these furrows. The furrows will then collect water for the trees when it rains. If the field is not level do not use furrows as the water will run in them and wash the trees out. If the land is not prepared the same general methods of planting should be followed as for planting forest trees. The average man will plant between 500 and 1000 trees a day. The cost of planting, therefore, is determined by the daily wage scale.

CARE: Christmas trees can be and are grown without any care whatsoever. We believe, however, that proper and judicious pruning for shape after the trees are two feet tall will greatly increase the value of the crop at very little cost to the owner. The question of fertilization has been greatly debated, some claiming that fast growth produced by fertilizer causes the whorls of branches to be so far apart that the trees do not bring top prices. Others claim that the fertilizer enables them to market their trees in fewer years and thus give a greater profit, although the market price per tree is less.

SELLING THE TREES: The method of selling depends entirely upon local conditions, and the circumstances of the man who grows the trees. The man who is ideally situated to grow Christmas trees is the farmer who has a few acres of land which can be devoted to this purpose. He can cut the trees himself around the first of December, take them to the city with his own truck and sell them from house to house at from 75¢ to \$2.50 each. The business man, however, who grows Christmas trees, will usually have to sell his trees to a store or Christmas tree broker in the city at wholesale prices which range from 25¢ to 75¢.